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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of )

Art Unit 3661

Nick E. Ciavarella, et al. )

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Serial No. 10/693,567 )

I hereby certify that this correspondence was deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 16 day of March, 2005.

Filed: October 25, 2003 )

For: UNIVERSAL COLLAR )

Melinda A. Miller, sec'y to Shannon V. McCue

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Sir,

Pursuant 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 encouraging the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement, the Applicants submit this paper to introduce art that they wish to have the Examiner consider, and to introduce art in compliance with their duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

The art has been listed on the attached modified PTO Form 1449. This includes one (1) U.S. Patent and one (1) foreign reference. A copy of the foreign publication has been enclosed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). A copy of the U.S. Patent has not been submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.491(b).

No representation is made that a specific search has been made by the Applicants, that the information is material to the claimed subject matter, or that the information is non-cumulative, or that the information represents the only or the best information. The Applicants do not admit that any of the information they have provided is necessarily prior to their invention but rather that it is information known of at this time. Any question that may arise regarding priority of a specific reference shall be resolved during prosecution.

The enclosed documents are being submitted for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with the opportunity to make an evaluation and to arrive at an independent assessment of materiality of each document to the examination of this application. The Examiner is requested to disregard any markings on the documents.

Applicants respectfully request that the information cited be made of record in the subject case.

**IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action or within three months of its filing. No certification or fee is due with this filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon V. McCue", is written over a horizontal line.

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Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449  
(Rev. 8-83)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICEATTY. DOCKET NO.  
GOJ.P.97SERIAL NO.  
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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

APPLICANT  
Nick E. Ciavarella, et al.FILING DATE  
10/25/2003GROUP  
3661

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If Appropriate)
	5,638,989	06/1997	Ophardt et al	222	105	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
EP 0 519 683	09/1992	Europe			X

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.